

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 021107Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9086

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, NP, US

SUBJECT: DISARMING THE KHAMPAS

REF: KATHMANDU 3089 AND PREVIOUS

1. SPEAKING AT AUGUST 1 SESSION OF NATIONAL PANCHAYAT HOME MINISTER SHRESTHA ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF EXPIRATION OF JULY 31 DEADLINE FOR KHAMPAS TO SURRENDER ARMS, 60 PERCENT OF ILLEGAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION HAD BEEN TURNED IN.

2. HE ALSO INFORMED HOUSE THAT ORDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO POLICE TO MOVE INTO KHAMPA AREAS IN MUSTANG TO LAUNCH SEARCH FOR WEAPONS STILL WITHHELD. "IF ANYBODY IN ANY CAMP," HE SAID, "MAKES ANY ATTEMPT TO OBSTRUCT," IMPEDE OR HAMPER THIS OPERATION, THE ORDERS ARE TO DEAL WITH HIM."

3. FOREIGN MINISTER, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING ALSO REPORTED THAT OPERATIONS ARE PROCEEDING WELL. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT KHAMPAS HAD INDICATED THEY WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH GOVERNMENT AND WOULD ALLOW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO ENTER CAMPS TO INVENTORY AND COLLECT WEAPONS AND
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COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. ONE PROBLEM NOW WAS THAT EQUIPMENT

COULD NOT BE MOVED OUT OF SOME KHAMPA AREAS DUE TO BAD WEATHER. FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED THAT THERE WERE ALSO REMOTE CHANCES THAT BECAUSE OF FAULTY COMMUNICATIONS SOME KHAMPAS IN MORE ISOLATED AREAS HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS, AND MIGHT THEREFORE BE TEMPTED TO RESIST

4. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE IN PRO-CHINESE WEEKLY MATRIBHUMI KHAMPA LEADER WANGDU IS REPORTED TO NOW BE IN JOMSOM AND HAVING ACCEPTED HMG IDENTITY CARD, IS URGING FOLLOWERS TO TURN IN WEAPONS.

5. COMMENT: SHRESTHA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICE ACTION IS CONSISTENT WITH OTHER REPORTS THAT HMG PLAN IS TO FIRST SEND IN POLICE IN EFFORT TO COLLECT WEAPONS AND TO KEEP ARMY IN RESERVE IN THE EVENT HOSTILITIES BREAK OUT. WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, EXTENT TO WHICH POLICE HAVE ACTUALLY GONE UP INTO CAMPS, NOR DO WE KNOW WHETHER SHRESTHA'S ESTIMATE OF ARMS TURNED IN IS ACCURATE. ANNOUNCED POLICE ACTION AT THIS TIME IS FIRM DEMONSTRATION OF HMG'S RESOLVE TO ACT VIGOROUSLY AGAINST KHAMPAS SINCE MANY HERE HAD EXPECTED JULY 31 DEADLINE TO BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE KHAMPAS WITH SUFFICIENT GRACE PERIOD TO TURN IN ARMS. IF FOREIGN MINISTER KARKHI'S INFORMATION CORRECTLY REFLECTS SITUATION, THERE HOPEFULLY SHOULD BE NO NEED FOR MAJOR USE OF FORCE.

CARGO

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